Have you tried making a legend in black, then with a slightly smaller text in the color? This will work for short text strings (a few characters). If too long, the characters will slowly get misaligned.

Alternatively, have you tried creating a shadow effect? This is done by using the same size font buy shifting the black background one slightly (down and right I think looks best). String length wont matter in this case.

Here is an example of this effect (the "N"): https://imgur.com/a/oDaR5